THE TENTH DAY.

8th March, 1924.

The Assembly met at 12-30 P. M., on Saturday, the 8th March, 1924.

Rao Bahadur R. Viraraghava Aivangar, Officer in charge of the Administration, presided.

114. Ayurveda Department with special reference to its attitude towards Ezhavas.

Mr. Karuva S. Krishnan Asan (Member, Nominated) in the first place stated that he would assure the Government and the members of the Assembly that the views expressed on the previous day by Mr. Padmanabhan Martandan were only the views of that particular member and not those of his community and requested that neither the Government nor the members of the Assembly might entertain any prejudice against his community on that account. It was true that there were defects in the Ayurveda Department as it was being worked at present; but those defects were the result of the system in vogue and not of the Director of Ayurveda.

The Ayurvedic system of treatment was a unique discovery of the ancient sages specially adapted to the food and climatic conditions of this country. It was due to these reasons that the Ayurvedic system of treatment was found to have greater effect than other kinds of treatment in diseases commonly prevailing in India. Mr. Krishnan Asan then began to discuss the present condition of the several institutions of the Ayurveda Department.

The Member referred to the evil of merely teaching the Sastra without at the same time giving the students some idea of the proper preparation of *ghritas*, *lehyas*, *pills*, etc., out of the several herbs that went into the making of those medicines. A thorough knowledge of Sanskrit was indispensable for understanding *Ashtangahridaya* and the *Ashtangasangraha*. As matters stood at present, the knowledge of the students who passed the prescribed examinations was confined to the notes dictated to them by their teachers. To remedy the evil, the Member suggested that in future only those who passed the Sastri Test from the Sanskrit College or those who convinced the authorities that they had a good knowledge of Sanskrit should be admitted to the Ayurveda College.

Certain medicines such as *kshirabala* which possessed invaluable powers in curing dangerous diseases were not being prepared and preserved in the Ayurveda Pharmacy, though decoctions and oils could be had there in plenty. He was not one of those who advocated the abolition of the Pharmacy. His point was that certain changes had to be brought about in the conduct of the Pharmacy so as to make it more useful to the public. He thought that rare and costly medicines which could not be easily prepared by ordinary Vaidyans should always be stocked in the Pharmacy and made available to the public. The *Sodhana* method of treatment which was very important and effective in the Ayurveda system was not being followed in the Ayurveda hospital and should be introduced at a very early date. It was regrettable, he said, that the method of treatment known as *Vasti* was also unknown there. The training given to the students of the Ayurveda College was not adequate. The Botanical Garden should be placed under the supervision of a man well-versed in the cultivation of herbs, if any tangible results were to be expected from it. There should be an advisory body for the general supervision of the department. If that suggestion could be adopted, the Ayurveda College could be made to take its place as an integral unit of the Travancore University.

The Member said that the award of grants was not consistent with the importance of the localities and the merits of the Vaidyans. Further, the rates of grants

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now awarded were very low. He suggested that there should be four grades of Vaidyasalas with a grant of Rs. 100, Rs. 75, Rs. 50, and Rs. 35 per mensem for each grade. There were only very few Ezhava Vaidyans in the Department. Ezhavas could not qualify in the Ayurveda College, because they were not admitted into that institution until very recently. Yet there were reputed Ezhava Vaidyans who deserved the sympathetic help of the Government. The Member then reiterated the main points of his representation as below:—

1. that admission to the Ayurveda College should be restricted to those who had a thorough knowledge of Sanskrit;

2. that passed candidates should be granted certificates only after they had gained sufficient experience in the preparation of medicines and the diagnosis of diseases.

3. that reputed Ezhava Vaidyans should be recognised like Government Vaidyans;

4. that more Ezhava Vaidyans should be awarded grants; and

5. that the administration of the Ayurveda Department should be arranged to be conducted on the lines to be laid down by a Council of seven Vaidyans of Kerala, of whom some should possess a knowledge of both the western and the eastern systems of medicine.

115. Medical aid.

Mr. O. N. Krishna Kurup (Member, Municipal Council, Quilon) stated that certain criticisms made by a previous member (Mr. Padmanabhan Martandan) about the working of the Ayurveda Department were baseless and that those criticisms were the result of personal ill-will. The Member also requested that a provision be introduced in the revised Assembly Rules to prevent the recurrence of similar speeches.

He then made the following suggestions for improving the condition of the Ayurveda Department:—

(1) that where there were no suitable buildings to accommodate Vaidyasalas, Government camp sheds might be allowed to be utilised for that purpose;

(2) that the grants now disbursed to Vaidyans might be converted into regular salaries;

(3) that those who were examiners in Ayurveda might also be allowed to grant medical certificates;

(4) that Ayurvedic Pharmacies and Hospitals might be opened at Alleppey, Quilon, Nagercoil and other populous towns and that the Vaidyans appointed to those institutions might be given a pay of not less than Rs. 50 per mensem;

(5) that candidates on passing the Ayurvedic examinations might be appointed to such institutions; and

(6) that the pay of the staff of the department might be revised on a more liberal scale.

The Member next stated that there was a general belief that the administration of the Medical Department was conducted in such a way as to cause great hardship to certain individuals and requested that Drs. K. P. Raman Pillai and Ravi Varma might be given proper encouragement, suited to their qualifications.

He added that there was a rumour that an attempt was being made, on certain flimsy grounds, to cancel the agreement entered into with Messrs. Naire and Naire, London, for the supply of drugs, etc., and prayed that Government might conduct a searching enquiry into the matter. To avoid such complaints he suggested that the Government might themselves undertake direct responsibility in the matter of the importation of foreign drugs.

President's reply.—In the speeches made by members on the above subjects, language which is a little intemperate was used. It is only natural for you, while speaking in haste, to speak with heat, and I shall leave that aside for the present. But if, while reading a manuscript speech, deliberately and carefully written, such

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